

Considering:

The support of the international community to reach the goals not only of Costa Rica but also of the children and adolescents of the world, our country has the obligation to guarantee access to education to all.

That education is a measure to combat poverty, while poverty augments in the absence of lack of access to education.

Therefore the Government of Costa Rica must commit itself to offer a quality education to children and adolescents who live in our country.

Resolve the situation in which children and adolescents who do not have access to education live

It worries us that:

The same education system becomes an obstacle that impedes children and adolescents from continuing their education.

That the Government of Costa Rica is not fulfilling with its promise and its duty of poverty alleviation through education, because there are many children and adolescents who do not receive education and cannot finish their education.

We are not given information or instructed about our rights.

The Government of Costa Rica is not guaranteeing education for all, because it does not know the reality in which the children and adolescents are living, some of them have to take care of their homes, brothers and sisters or work selling key-chains, candy, flowers, candy, oranges among other things and thus, loose their education.

The teachers on many occasions appear disinterested in teaching. Some teachers only write on the blackboard and do not explain anything, quickly rub it off and we cannot even copy what they have written.

Many a time, the native children and adolescents cannot even study because of the floods which ruin their homes and belongings, or because they live very far from the High School or Primary School.

That the migrant students are treated badly or looked down upon due to their nationality.

The children and adolescents have the right to an artistic, athletic, cultural and spiritual education and training.

The integral education is imparted only at times, but mostly it is not.

The artistic education is only important for civic acts and some Education Centers do not impart it.

Physical Education is not given much importance, and on many occasions it is imparted inside the classroom, without materials and equipment.

We demand of our legislators:

That they ensure that the children and adolescents of our country can enjoy their right to education by means of construction of education centers in rural zones. Invest more in infrastructure.

That they guarantee better access to people having less resources, providing scholarships and grants, bettering means of communication and transport to the Education Centers in the rural zones, subsidizing transport for students. They should ensure that the economic support is distributed in an even manner in all centers of education.

That social investment must be increased because it helps us to make progress.

That Education in Human Rights be included in the Programme of the Ministry of Public Education.

That special schedules be established for students who work.

That they realize support programmes for students who live in difficult situations in their families. Provide a budget to Education Centers so they can undertake these projects.

That more scholarships and grants be instituted.

That the Government give more books to those Education Centers which need them the most, in which children and adolescents cannot buy them.

That the Ministry of Education ensure that the teachers are more efficient and know how to treat the students.

That the classes are planned so that students understand the material and not only to complete to programme.

That the Right to Education be guaranteed to the indigenous people, with due consideration to their cultural identity and respecting the rights of children and adolescents that live in Costa Rica to know and understand their culture.

The Right to Education without discrimination for the migrants.

The Right to Education without discrimination for all children and adolescents with disabilities.

That Education Centers be constructed in indigenous zones of the country, with all the facilities offered in urban zones, offering the people the same quality of life as people living in the capital.

That the National Education Programme include all that is related to the indigenous culture, language and customs.

Guarantee the opportunity to migrants for integration in the Education System.

Ensure that the integration of children and adolescents with disabilities into the Education System and that all Education Centers have the necessary infrastructure to receive them.

That the Ministry of Education strengthen in its programme the lessons on art, sports, religion, values; in a manner that these have the same importance as the basic materials (mathematics, social studies, sciences, Spanish and other languages)

Art and sport clubs be organized, with different disciplines and alternatives to each, which one can elect.

Guarantee a education in values which cultivates in the students abilities to take decisions, know to develop virtues, socialize, resolve conflicts without resorting to violence and to confront day to day problems.

Ensure that all Education Centers have necessary facilities and equipment for sports.

Ensure that the teachers implement different teaching methodologies, as teaching outside the class, undertaking excursions.

That the Education Centers organize sport camps, artistic “variety shows” which assist in student integration.

We salute and present our Declaration so that it is considered with objective of recognizing that the right to education as being of vital importance to eradicate poverty.

San Jose, 25th April, 2005